

# SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS



## INTRODUCTION

Carib Indians occupied the islands of the West Indies for hundreds of years before the British and French began settlement in 1623. At one time united with Anguilla, the islands achieved independence in 1983 as Saint Kitts and Nevis but remain a UK Commonwealth realm.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II  
represented by Governor General Samuel W.T. SEATON

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Timothy HARRIS

### Government Type

federal parliamentary democracy (Parliament)  
under a constitutional monarchy; a  
Commonwealth realm

### Capital

Basseterre

### Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (14 or 15 seats,  
depending on inclusion of attorney general)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 261 sq km  
Land: 261 sq km  
Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

tropical, tempered by constant sea breezes;  
little seasonal temperature variation; rainy  
season (May to November)

### Natural Resources

arable land

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

high-income, tourism-based Caribbean island economy; better  
debt balancing; CARICOM member; growing offshore financial  
hub; environmentally fragile; unique citizenship-driven growth  
model; increased telecommunications focus

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$1.24 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$23,300 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - tourism, cotton, salt, copra, clothing, footwear,  
beverages

**Agricultural products** - coconuts, tropical fruit, roots/tubers nes,  
vegetables, sweet potatoes, pulses nes, watermelons,  
carrots/turnips, eggs, tomatoes

**Exports** \$57.4 million (2017 est.)

low-voltage protection equipment, broadcasting equipment,  
measuring instruments, electric motor parts, electrical  
transformers (2019)

**partners:** US 69%, Germany 8%, Italy 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$335.3 million (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, jewelry, ships, cars, poultry meats, cement  
(2019)

**partners:** US 59%, Peru 6%, Germany 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

54,150 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.64% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

African origin 92.5%,  
mixed 3%, White 2.1%,  
East Indian 1.5%, other 0.6%, unspecified 0.3% (2001 est.)

### Language

English (official)

### Religion

Protestant 74.4%, Roman Catholic 6.7%, Rastafarian 1.7%,  
Jehovah's Witness 1.3%, other 7.6%, none 5.2%, unspecified  
3.2% (2001 est.)

